

# Times-Dispatch

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THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1910.

## BE LAST OF THE TROOPERS.

The last of the great Southern troopers passed into history when General Thomas Lafayette Rosser Tuesday night. All of the great troopers had gone; Stuart died before the war was ended, and Ashby before the strife was well begun. The last of the great troopers, the prince of all, lived only until men learned to marvel at his daring and to hold up as one of the great commanders of all time. The others passed on; Fitz Lee and Wheeler and Rosser were left. All three, comrades in arms, enlisted in the service when the war was declared with Spain, and fought for the cause against which the three had fought so valorously in other days. Lee died, Wheeler died, Rosser alone survived.

It was peculiarly fitting that the Major-General who fought his way out from Appomattox should be the last of the great cavalry leaders to die. As he bore the flag of the Confederacy when every other leader in the East had surrendered, it was a favor of fate that left him with Munford, the last to tell the story of the stirring deeds wrought by the men of the bugle and sabre when the Confederacy gasped its last.

General Rosser was at the head of troops whose fame will shine out as long as the memory of the Confederacy lives. His first regiment was the Fifth Virginia Cavalry—famous on a hundred fields and gallant in a hundred bold attacks. From this position he came to command, in time, the famous First Brigade, at the head of which General Ashby had ridden to his death at Winchester. This brigade was made up in large part of boys—lads who had known the rifle from youth and had been trained on horseback from childhood. When their bugles sounded "boots and saddles," they were the Yankee who met their advance. Brave, cool, and never flinching in the face of danger, they have been described by Lieutenant-Colonel Henderson as the best partisan cavalry ever put into the field. These men, Rosser commanded, and no greater compliment could be paid him than to say that he was a worthy leader of his band.

General Rosser was the last surviving Major-General in the Confederate service from Virginia, with the exception of General L. L. Lomax and General G. W. C. Lee. Of the fifteen who held this high rank, Pegram fell during the war. Slowly through the years the others have died—Heth, Johnson, Samuel Jones, Kemper, Fitz Lee, "Rooney" Lee, Magruder, Mahone, Maury, Pickett, Stevenson and Tallentire. What a gallant company they were, these Virginia division leaders! A forerunner, for genius, for courage, for battle, for magnanimity in victory, for honor in defeat, their equals were never seen in the crowded annals of a thousand years of war. Rosser was the peer of any, and that is honor enough for one man.

## A REAL MOVE TOWARDS DEMOCRACY.

The political sky in England is still lighted up with conflict. The Lords are laying hard, the Liberals are fighting back every turn, the Unionists, compact and aggressive, are carrying through their policy of reform. Every foundation of the English Constitution is being shaken, and laws which stood for centuries are about to collapse. Everything presages change.

Premier Asquith, who rides as the angel on the whirlwind and directs the storm, is not yielding a point, but insists that every jot and tittle of the Government programme be carried out by the Commons. His speech of Tuesday showed this very plainly. The time is past, he said, when the Lords can remain as an obstruction in the way of progress. They cannot be reformed; they must be regenerated. Their right, as a class, to oppose the will of the Commons, as the nation, must be abolished.

He proposes three distinct and far-reaching reforms. The Lords are to be reduced in numbers and are to be placed on a democratic footing. Their right to compel any legislation is to be strictly limited, and their power to veto a financial measure is to be taken away. Finally, to keep the Lords in touch with the people, the old Septennial Act is to be repealed and in its place a law is to be enacted that will limit the life of any Parliament to five years.

This is all that Mr. Asquith disposes at present as to his plans, but it is sufficient to show that the Lords will be taken at their word and that their hereditary right to sit as the upper House will pass with the present year. They can never veto another law. They can never stand, unchanged from year to year, as the champions of reaction. Hereafter, when they dare oppose the will of the Commons, the Lords must appeal to

the people and face the country as any other representatives.

This decision of Premier Asquith, and not any proposal to abolish the Lords, is the real triumph for democracy. It will mean that the old advocates of royalty and the old champions of monarchy descend from their exalted seat to take a place beside the Commons as the servants of the people. The Lords, in effect, will be a Senate, shorn of all financial power, to work with a House in the great and growing democracy of Britain.

## WHY NOT WORK IT BOTH WAYS?

The Mayor of Chester, South Carolina, is said to have hired a merchant in that town five hundred dollars for selling a pistol, the law of the State making it unlawful to deal in such firearms. This incident is worth noting, the selling and the carrying of pistols men could not buy them, and as both the selling and the carrying of pistols is forbidden we are glad that one dealer in the State has been compelled to pay heavily for doing business which the law forbids. Heretofore, it has been the rule of the Courts to impose a fine of one hundred dollars on those who have been caught carrying pistols, and very few of them. The Mayor of Chester has set a good example to the courts, but it would seem that he has not carried the case far enough. The man who bought the pistol should now be fined as much as the merchant who sold it, and a thousand dollars would be just twice as much as five hundred. At this rate the merchant would not sell any more pistols and the customer would not buy another, and the law of supply and demand would both be met.

A method of this sort would also be good if it should be applied to the sale and consumption of intoxicating liquors. No whiskey would be sold if there were no buyers, and the buyer should be punished equally with the seller. Men are licensed to sell the stuff; why not license the men who drink it? A license of five or ten dollars a year from every one who drinks would yield an enormous revenue in all the States, which, added to the revenue derived from the dealers, would be sufficient to meet all the extraordinary expenses of the State governments.

## THE MARYLAND PLAN.

Speaking of the Maryland plan of getting rid of the negro as a voter, the Charlotte Observer says: "In going to such extremes, the Democratic party in Maryland is paving the way to trouble for itself." Probably so; but it is also paving the way for a better understanding of the whole suffrage problem, and, after the work is over, it will have clean hands, which is more than can be said truthfully about some of the other States which have resorted to unusual methods of doing what Maryland is now trying to do by perfectly straightforward dealing. If the "grandfather" clause could stand in North Carolina, the same being admittedly a subterfuge, we do not see why a clean-cut declaration disfranchising the negroes as voters in State and local elections in Maryland should not stand the test of the courts with as much face and grace as the grandfather clause and other expedients of the sort in which refuge has been taken.

## WANTED: SCOTCH IMMIGRANTS.

It is proposed to organize a society in North Carolina for the double purpose of preserving the Scottish traditions of that State and of encouraging direct immigration from Scotland. Both purposes are good purposes and ought to be encouraged. The State is filled with traditions of what these wonderful people did for it. They explored its wildernesses, they established its government, they fought for its independence, they have worked for its industrial development, and nothing better could happen for its future than the settlement within its borders of many colonies of the sturdiest folk in all the world. We wish the white population of Virginia could be increased by the addition of thousands of them to its citizenship. Some very active work is needed to fill the waste places in this State and there are doubtless many Scotch workers who could be induced to come here.

## STILL HARPING ON TOM RYAN.

The newspapers are talking rather freely about Thomas F. Ryan and the United States Senatorship from Virginia in case of the death of Senator Daniel. The story was started by the New York American. That ought to have been enough to queer it; but here comes the Savannah Press bothering about a matter in which it can have no possible interest and saying that "the announcement of his candidacy at this time is an indelicate thing and should be resented by Virginia Democrats." How are they going to resent it and against whom will their resentment lie? Mr. Ryan is not responsible for the idle story that has been told about him, he had nothing to do with it; so far as we know he has never opened his mouth on the subject and he is no more a candidate for Senator from Virginia than the editor of the Savannah Press is a candidate for Governor of Georgia.

Mr. Ryan was born in Virginia. He owns a good deal of property in this State, on which he pays taxes, and he is a Democrat. We do not believe that he has any political aspirations; but we should say, on general principles, that he would make as good a Senator as either of the distinguished members of the upper House from the State of Georgia. Besides, he has probably given as much money in aid of the Democratic party as any of those who are barking at his heels. He has a turn for great affairs and has managed to play his hand with the sharpest of the gang in Wall Street with the

result that he has a good deal more money than the most of them? He has done at least one thing in recent years which some thousands of persons in this country should remember with gratitude—He saved the Equitable Insurance Company, when it was in a very bad way for the policyholders, by setting Mr. Cleveland to watch its management for the benefit of the assured. Then he has given a great deal for worthy charitable objects, and if one could get under the surface he would probably find that Mr. Ryan is just a little whiter under the skin than the large majority of his defamers. This does not mean that we would support him for United States Senator, if there were a vacancy, which we hope and pray there may not be for many years, but that it is about time for the Democratic newspapers of the semi-respectable class, to which the Savannah paper belongs, to stop making fools of themselves, if they can.

## A NEW SOURCE OF DANGER.

The New York police seem positive that Albert Wolter is the murderer of Ruth Wheeler, the fifteen-year-old stenographer. Every circumstance, according to the police, tends to fix this hideous crime on the New York boy. The girl's body was found wrapped in his shirt, blood stains were discovered in his room, the tell-tale paint with which he varnished his grate after the tragedy was purchased after the girl's disappearance. A hundred circumstances combine to fix on the boy a crime that stands almost unequalled in the annals of the New York police.

## WYATT AIKEN LED THE REST.

The Anderson (S. C.) Daily Mail believes that most of the Insurgents in Congress are insincere, and in support of this view takes the liberty of quoting from a private letter of Wyatt Aiken, member of the House from the Third South Carolina District. In this he says that "the Democratic position is better than ever, because we helped the Insurgents to the extreme limit, and we were delighted when they took to the woods and refused to get rid of Cannon and Cannonism, for which they had been howling so long. We had to call the Speaker's bluff, for if we had not done so the press of the country would have said we had endorsed him and that we had acted cowardly. We did all we could, and we are now in better position than ever to fight the Insurgents, and the Regulars, too, in the West and elsewhere. . . . The Insurgents and the Northern press claim that they did wonders, when, as a matter of fact, they laid down at the crucial moment, and never would have turned a wheel if the Democrats had not stood solid."

That is an interesting story, though we grieve to know that Mr. Aiken should use such language in his explanation of the alleged victory of the Democrats in the killing of Mr. Cannon, our assistant telling us that the phrase "calling the Speaker's bluff" being one of the forms of expression used by players in the gambling game of poker. How it happened that Wyatt Aiken, a Presbyterian, should have dropped into the vernacular of the tables we cannot explain, but in this case, as in so many others, "the least said the soonest mended;" and it is none of our business, anyhow.

The fact that Aiken had to answer to the roll call first on the Burleson resolution to declare the Speakership vacant and that he answered right is not surprising—that is what his father, a splendid soldier of the Army of Northern Virginia and a member of Congress himself, would have done, and the rest of the Democrats followed Aiken. That was glory enough for one day, even if it has resulted in much criticism from the mollycoddles. It doesn't matter at all that Mr. Cannon has held on to the Speakership and is probably stronger to-day for evil than ever; the Democrats who did not fear to "put it to the touch" are entitled to the thanks of their constituents. It is hoped that they will not get too intimate with the Insurgents, who have proved themselves a thoroughly discredited bunch of political invertebrates.

## THE COLONEL HIMSELF AGAIN.

The Colonel stirred up as great a commotion in Cairo as his best friends dared hope for. Representing as he did, more or less, the American people, he was invited to make a public address in Cairo. When he came to make the speech instead of saying nothing, as would have been proper, he said a great deal. He did not confine himself to the customary eulogy of the people whose official guest he was, but threw himself into his subject with all the zeal of a political partisan. He roundly abused the assassins of the late Egyptian Premier and had a few remarks to make about the general policy of the Egyptian Nationalists. When he finished, his hearers did not know whether they had been to a session of the provincial Parliament or had been the unwilling auditors of a wordy political harangue.

For the time being the matter was overlooked and nothing was said about the bad taste of the American visitor. On Tuesday night, however, a band of young Nationalists called on the Colonel and expressed their opinion of his remarks in a manner that was more forcible than complimentary. The Colonel happened to be away at the time, and consequently missed the tribute of the young Egyptians. Had he been there, there is no way of telling what might have happened.

The incident was a shining example of what a public man should not do in a foreign land. The Colonel is an American, and has no more to do with affairs in Egypt than any other private citizen of this country. In addition, his reputation and long connection with this Government gave him a special standing which should have sealed his lips and prevented him from taking a hand in a purely local and partisan question. A respect for his country and for the opinion of all good people of every political creed would have prevented so glaring a violation of common courtesy.

The only way of measuring the real extent of the Colonel's folly is to put ourselves in the place of the men whom he abused. Suppose, for example, an Egyptian statesman came to this country as the guest of the nation and was invited to make a public speech in Washington. If he abused our party as Mr. Roosevelt abused the Nationalists in Egypt we should feel that the

bounds of propriety had been overstepped and that the sooner the foreigner was sent back home the better for international amity.

We must remember, however, that the Ethiopian cannot change his color, and Roosevelt cannot become tame. He always had as rare a faculty for abuse as this country has ever seen, and he is determined to exercise that faculty wherever he may be. It will be little short of a miracle if the Colonel passes through all the courts of Europe and does not leave behind him a trail of untimely speeches, injudicious orations and officious advice that will give European countries a true conception of his character, to be sure, but a very mistaken idea of Americans in general. But, then, maybe he cannot help it.

## A CRACKSMAN AND YEGGMAN.

Please tell me the difference between "yegman" and "cracksmen." What does the word "yegman" mean, and from what is the word "cracksmen" derived? B. H. BAKER.

A "cracksmen" is a general name for a burglar, and particularly for a safe-cracking burglar. "Yegman" is a slang expression of doubtful meaning. Its use is generally confined, as cracksmen, to dynamiters and safecrackers.

What is the per capita wealth of the United States? 2. What was the per capita wealth of the United States 100 years ago? 3. Please give me a few statistics to show how the United States has increased in wealth, population and land. READER.

1. \$1,310.11.  
 2. \$27.84.  
 3. The area of the United States in 1809 was 3,724,416 square miles. The population in 1809 was 3,926,789. The estimated present area is 3,724,416. The estimated present population is 91,992,000. The area of the United States in 1809 was 3,724,416 square miles. The population in 1809 was 3,926,789. The estimated present area is 3,724,416. The estimated present population is 91,992,000.

## THE SUN AND MOON.

Please explain why the sun has been so hazy, and why the moon has been so funny appearance every night. Could the comet or the eruption of Mt. Etna have anything to do with it? A SUBSCRIBER.

Neither the comet nor the eruption of Mt. Etna has anything to do with the appearance of the sun or moon. The probability is that the great amount of dust in the air has given to both a reddish tinge.

## STREET IMPROVEMENT IN RICHMOND.

Assertion has been made that Richmond has seventy miles of unimproved streets. Is this so? What is your opinion of party making such an assertion? B. H. BAKER.

This statement is grossly exaggerated. The city of Richmond has only about 100 miles of streets.

## WHAT THE PAPERS THINK.

"It does seem" to the Newport News Times-Herald, "that some system must be devised that shall limit the amount of private fortunes or there will come a time when everything worth while will be owned by a half-dozen men, with the masses toiling their lives away in poverty but little better off than the slave of ancient times." Plans and specifications will be received at this office. How it is to be done, though done it ought to be, we do not see. It was some such idea that the Colonel had in mind, probably, when he ran amuck of the malefactors of great wealth in 1907, and, if our recollection is not at fault, he came very near ditching the whole business with more injury to the persons of moderate means and to the men who worked for their living than to the very rich.

The Suffolk Evening Herald advises Jeffries Davis that "Senator Tillman is absent on sick leave, and it is up to him to do double duty as a star performer." But Davis and Tillman are not in the same class. They are both bad-mannered, but Tillman has ability and Davis has not.

The Southwest Times says that the charges of the Welfare Committee of the V. P. I. "are not of sufficient importance to have created all this furor, and this committee has done the school an injustice by raising such a racket over matters that they were not able to prove, and many of them amount to nothing, even if sustained." But was any serious effort made to investigate the charges at the meeting last week? In his report of the "hearing," Editor Williams, of the Roanoke Times, said: "The investigation seems to have developed, or help develop, hints of the real causes of trouble, of diminished attendance, waning public interest, poor results from the farming operations and the apparent reluctance of boys to take the farming course."

What foundation there was for such "hints" we do not know; but it would seem that a searching investigation might have discovered some things that have not come to light.

The Bristol Herald-Courier suspects that "certain newspapers in Virginia that are clamoring for an early Democratic convention to define the party's position on certain issues" would feel tempted to insurge if such a convention should declare for State-wide prohibition. Probably so, but no Democratic newspaper in the State, so far as we know, has committed itself to the policy of electing members of the General Assembly "regardless of personal and political affiliations."

It is not what the North Carolina football team will do when it comes here on Thanksgiving Day to be such an out of its boots as aforesaid; but the question now is, how many times have the bed sheets been changed since Andy Jackson stopped there on his way from his native home in South Carolina to his adopted home in Tennessee? The Charlotte Observer has not answered, and dare not answer.

We do not wish to be impolite, but the Manchester (N. H.) Union has made it necessary for us to explain that the nasal tone adopted by all the Yankees in its neighborhood is not as sweet to the ear as the nasalization of the

sun-kissed South, the land of poetry and song. There is not so much objection to what they say of a pleasant sort as to how they say it. The nose in these parts is not regarded as properly an organ of speech.

Says the Washington Herald: "South Carolina has a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Vice-President in Hon. Thomas H. Waring, of Charleston. His versatility, if not his availability, is attested by the fact that he edits a newspaper which has steadily supported Bryan for four years." Barring slight inaccuracies, this statement is satisfactory. His name is not "Thomas H.," but "Thomas R.," he has never been a fool about Bryan, and he is just as available as anybody else. The time has come when the South must assert itself in national politics, we are told, and South Carolina has not had a Vice-President of the United States since Andy Jackson's day.

The Rev. Dr. T. G. Boyce, who has been elected president of the Due West Female College, our alma mater, is all right. He knows the Shorter Catechism, is of the Seceder persuasion, always says something worth while when he preaches, and has a lot of hard common sense. This information is given for the benefit of the Hartford Courant, which has been waiting for a sign from this seat of orthodoxy.

The Montgomery Advertiser agrees with the Columbus Enquirer-Sun, speaking of the "What the Papers Think" in the Times-Dispatch, that "the heading is misleading," and adds: "If all newspapers should say just what they think at all times there'd be hot times around the offices." That might be so of the papers of Alabama and Georgia, but not of the papers in the grand old State of Virginia. Then there is the difference between the papers of the Old Dominion and the papers of Georgia and Alabama, the papers of the former unapproachable Commonwealth being able to think, whereas the papers of the latter do not know how to think.

It is a little early for June brides, but the crop is coming along in fine style in glorious old Richmond.

We did not think that Woodrow Wilson would let that \$500,000 of Brother Procter's money get away from him, and it is not surprising, therefore, to learn that a working agreement has been reached between the generous giver and the wide-awake president of Princeton University. Five hundred thousand dollars is a lot of money these hard times, and there is always use for about that amount at any progressive institution. We wonder if the very wise and careful Mr. Hedges, of New York, one of Princeton's prize packages, had anything to do with bringing together in an amiable spirit the gentleman who gives and the gentleman who gets? If such be the case, it ought to be worth at least an L. L. D.

Omaha knew that the only way to get into the 200,000 class in population was to entrust the figures to the accurate calculations of its high school pupils.

By actual count, three per cent. of the eggs rolled on the White House lawn Monday were real eggs, and of these, what's the use of talking about ancient things?

The whole Brownsville affair is said to depend upon a black dog. The South said as much from the first.

Old Taft may rest easy. The Senate is to hold a caucus next week to see whether or not it can afford to act on the administration bills next winter.

The real question, however, is why the Colonel called General Cattleman a tramp for sending him three gallons of 30-year-old whiskey?

Evidently Insurance Commissioner Hotchkiss has a private tip to the effect that Hughes really means to retire. Else why this extreme zeal in prosecuting the insurance folks? Does he not know that prosecution is the sure road to fame?

It is foolish for Mount Etna to raise a disturbance just now. What can it do when he is coming to Italy?

According to the latest advices from Washington, there will be three words left to Taft's railroad bill when the Senate is through with it. The three words are "Be it enacted."

To meet the increased cost of living, the Interstate Commerce Commission reduced the freight on flour from Minneapolis to New York by one and one-half cents, which is precisely one and a half cents more than the Cost of Living Investigation will reduce anything, boys.

They say they saw an aurora borealis in Chicago Easter Sunday night; but our impression is that it was Sunday morning, after churchtime, when the aurora was a rainbow.

If the cruiser Charleston had borne any other name, at least a hundred men would have been killed in the explosion aboard the vessel, instead of eight.

New York milliners will rejoice to hear that the New York Legislature intends to prohibit the importation of alpacas from other States if the birds from which the feathers are taken ever live in New York. The milliners will have a little protective tariff of their infant industries at first hand.

All is not lost with Uncle Joe. Congress may yet pay his chauffeur.

# Daily Queries and Answers

Address all communications for this column to Query Editor, Times-Dispatch. No mathematical problems will be solved, no coins or stamps valued and no dealers' names will be given.

## "Grasshopper Sat." Etc.

Bradley Johnson, of this city, furnished the following notes on "The Grasshopper Sat on a Sweet Potato Vine": "I see some one wishes to know the meaning of the phrase 'Sat on a Sweet Potato Vine.' The late Major Innes Randolph wrote it. He also wrote, 'Am a Good Old Rebel.' John Marshall, Mr. Boyce and other light poems. Major Randolph was a distinguished soldier, newspaper man and one of Richmond's greatest writers. His works have been published. I think, by his son, Harold Randolph, of the Peabody Institute. But, if that is the case, there is never any fixed music to this song. The air was chosen by the singer."

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## Corbett-Fitzsimmons Fight.

1. When and where did the Corbett-Fitzsimmons fight come off, and where can I get an account of it? 2. Who was the first heavyweight champion of the world? 3. Who was the first heavyweight champion of America? 4. Who was the first heavyweight champion of the world? 5. Who was the first heavyweight champion of the world? 6. Who was the first heavyweight champion of the world? 7. Who was the first heavyweight champion of the world? 8. Who was the first heavyweight champion of the world? 9. Who was the first heavyweight champion of the world? 10. Who was the first heavyweight champion of the world? 11. Who was the first heavyweight champion of the world? 12. Who was the first heavyweight champion of the world? 13. Who was the first heavyweight champion of the world? 14. Who was the first heavyweight champion of the world? 15. Who was the first heavyweight champion of the world? 16. Who was the first heavyweight champion of the world? 17. 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